

JORDANHILL SCHOOL

MINUTES OF THE 32nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF JORDANHILL SCHOOL held on Tuesday 23 November 2021 at 7pm by Zoom.

PRESENT: -

All other members present attended via Zoom which included Mr Alexander (convenor) and 49 company members.

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 September 2020 were approved. They were proposed by Mrs Carrie and seconded by Mr MacRae.

2. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising that would not be covered in the reports and financial statements to follow.

3. BOARD OF MANAGERS REPORT

The convenor welcomed members to the Zoom meeting and thanked them for attending this second virtual AGM. He introduced himself and explained to members the purpose of the AGM referring to the Articles of Association. He outlined the running order of business for the meeting and set the tone for discussion as the evening evolved.

Mr Alexander encouraged members to contact the school by email should they have any matters that might be more adequately dealt with out with the AGM, and a response would be issued.

He also encouraged members to digest the Annual Report and review it to understand the range of activities and excellent achievements delivered in the last year. He commented on Government initiatives addressed in the Annual Report and how the school is performing against a selection of key performance indicators (KPIs).

Mr Alexander reflected on the change over the past 12 months, with the departure of Paul Thomson and Christine Robertson and the arrival of our new rector, John Anderson and depute rector, Dougie Brown. He thanked both these individuals, as well as the existing team, that the change has been smooth, notwithstanding the challenges of lockdowns, remote learning, exam changes, face masks and so many other things that he could list. He referred to Jordanhill School as a cohesive school which looks first and foremost after the wellbeing of its children and young people, the development of their own staff team which results in a fantastic educational experience and opportunity for our children.

Mr Alexander explained the continuing challenges faced by the school, this year, once again, has been challenging for all in the school given the January to March lockdown and move to remote learning, and the on-going mitigations that have changed how our school operates. This has been a substantial challenge for all schools in Scotland (and the world) and one that demands a continuing operational response from the leadership team of the school.

The convenor reflected on other pressures, including budget settlement from the Scottish Government which has been a source of perennial difficulty for the school as the school has suffered significant budget cuts over the past decade. So far, dialogue with the Scottish Government has been positive with a site visit in September offering the rector an opportunity to give civil servants a tour of the campus, share concerns about our estate, and discuss the challenges facing the school. He shared his sense of reality that is, is that the school will continue to face a very challenging economic climate which has resulted in savings having to be made and continue to be made. This places a burden on the school, but the best interests of our young people are always first and foremost in our minds. Let me assure you that we continue to defend our position vigorously and to demonstrate many areas of good practice as well as the well-worn management phrase of "best value".

Mr Alexander spoke about the development function which has operated quietly this year given the restrictions on activities. He reported that the Educational Amenities Trust Fund has agreed to support again the recruitment of a new development manager in 2022 to help reinvigorate the Striving Higher campaign. He acknowledged that there are many friends of the school who give generously to this campaign, and this is allowing the school to continue to offer a wide variety of opportunities to our children. The December edition of the Jordanhill School journal features much of this work along with contributions from former pupils and friends of the school.

As well as supporting the co-curricular activities, the Striving Higher campaign is designed to afford the school the opportunity to create legacy projects and to continue capital investment in the estate. In this context Mr Alexander fully acknowledged and expressed appreciation to the hard work and support of the Educational Amenities Trust. He reiterated that the encouraging initial response to Striving Higher has allowed the Board to sustain provision in 2020-21 and to limit increases in charges to parents, but as ever more needs to be done.

The convenor thanked all Board members for their support over the past year, the senior management team, teaching and support staff for playing their part in delivering an excellent education service and reflected on the excellent value added to the pupils' educational experience at Jordanhill School.

Mr Alexander advised it was his privilege to represent parents on the Board and work with senior school colleagues, engaging in thought provoking discussion for the benefit of all the pupils of the Jordanhill School.

And finally, as the convenor reflected on his time serving on the Board and his own children's 13-year journey he feels fortunate to have such a high performing school which his and all members' children and young people have/have had the opportunity to experience. As Jordanhill School is a small community he encouraged all members to contribute in whatever way possible to ensure that the great work being done and that has gone before will continue to

serve not only this generation but many more to come. His hope is that the school community will continue to pull in the same direction and support the school's leadership team and Board.

Ultimately, underpinning each decision that is taken is this question: "will this benefit the children and young people of Jordanhill School?". That should never change, and this mantra has stood the school well for its first 100 years and with the continued working partnership of pupils, staff, and parents the school will continue to deliver the achievements that all members wish for as a place of learning.

The convenor proposed to move on to our next item on the agenda.

4. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The treasurer, Mrs Hughes, gave a summary of the Financial Statements for 2020-2021 and outlined salient points from the financial year.

Firstly, she took the opportunity to thank Wendy Grant, the Bursar, for her work in managing the school's finances and presenting a clear and concise summary of the budget at the monthly Board meetings to keep the Board up to date with ongoing spending. These summaries give the Board full confidence throughout the year that the school's financial management is being handled well. This confidence is also echoed by Azets the School's independent auditors; 2020/21 was the first year of Azets' three-year appointment and they spent a full week in the school reviewing the school's finances.

Mrs Hughes reflected on the school's challenging year from an operational perspective and made the point that these challenges also impacted the financial position, for example reduced letting income and refectory income combined with significant unanticipated outlays on estate repairs put a significant strain on resources. Despite these obstacles the school balanced its finances and carried over a slight surplus of income over expenditure into this year's accounts which was a great outcome.

Turning to specifics, Mrs Hughes referred to page 3 of the Annual Report for a full summary of the school's yearly results and explained her role as treasurer to give a brief overview of the school's finances and an explanation of some of the figures contained in the Statement of Financial Affairs on page 8.

The school is funded via grant, received from the Scottish Government which in 2020-2021 was £6,700,947 (up just over £343,000 on the previous year which was to cover increasing costs such as nationally agreed salary uplifts and employer superannuation rates). For the purposes of accounting this income is classed as an "unrestricted fund" and is shown in line 1 of column 1 of the Statement of Financial Affairs – it is "unrestricted" in that the school has complete discretion as to how it is spent – but in effect it is used to cover salaries, pensions, utilities, day to day repairs, purchase of equipment etc. Just by way of explanation as to the other items in the "unrestricted funds" column – line 2 mentions "charitable activities" which is income generated

by the refectory, plus income received from letting the games halls at Anniesland Rd and the main school facilities to local clubs and organisations, and below that on line 3 the “other income” covers bank interest.

Refectory income was significantly adversely affected by the school closures and with annual takings standing at £93,411, this is a decrease of just over £133,000 based on the previous year’s figure which is a significant drop. Letting income generated by the school was nil because of the closures and following reopening there were no opportunities for organisations to safely let internal school facilities due to Covid health and safety guidance. In the previous financial year, letting income was just over £45,000.

However, despite these challenges the surplus of incoming resources over outgoing resources was £66,636 and this will be added to the reserves which now stand at £250,404 (up just over £87,000 on last year). However, most of this surplus net expenditure comprises the net book value of newly acquired fixed assets, which in accordance with standard accounting practice is being carried forward to 2020-2021.

In the Statement of Financial Affairs on page 8 entitled “restricted income”, this covers grants which have to be spent in a certain way, for example the School received a special repair grant of £250,000 (up £50,000 on last year) which funded a number of capital projects, in particular the replacement of the boiler in the sports centre, a new ventilation system for a school gym, electrical upgrade of a computer suite, roof repairs, Covid-19 adaptations, and implementation of the school’s digital strategy. Full details of the other “restricted funds” grants are listed within note 16 and include free School meals, primary modern languages 1+2 grant, youth music initiative funding and Scottish Rugby Union development funding. Note 16 also details the funds received from the Jordanhill School Educational Amenities Trust such as grants received for the provision of Mandarin as well as extra-curricular sports and music.

Finally, an overview of the school’s assets and liabilities can be found on page 9 of the Annual Report, and the notes on pages 13 to 19 express the detail behind the balance sheet figures. Just briefly, the total funds and assets carried forward by the school for the new financial year stood at £22,923,016. However, it is worth noting that this figure is largely made up of the value of the school’s land and buildings. This increase of just over £3.8 million is principally down to the revaluation of the estate by Ryden, which the auditors require to be carried out at five yearly intervals and was completed during the last accounting period.

The Board are extremely pleased with the overall financial position for 2020/21 after what has been an exceptionally challenging period for the school.

The audited accounts for the year 2020-2021 were approved:

Proposed: Mrs MacRae

Seconded: Mr Alexander

5. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

A resolution to appoint Azets as Auditors for 2020-2021 was adopted. Azets have been successfully appointed for 3 years following a tender exercise in 2019.

Proposed: Mrs Hughes Seconded: Mr Alexander

6. MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS

The convenor thanked departing Board members for their contributions and confirmed the election of new parent members.

Departing Parent Members

- Mr Ken Alexander, Mr Kenny MacRae and Professor Kevin O'Dell.

New Parent Members

- Mr Russell Davidson, Mr Ewen White and Dr James Yu, who all commence their first term of office.

7. PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION (PTA) REPORT

Mrs Lappin, PTA chair shared an update on the activity of the Parents Teachers Association. She explained the PTA's purpose and aims offering examples of support provided to the school's activities and resources via the PTA fundraising. She welcomed Mrs Munro, principal teacher at Jordanhill School who recently joined as the school's teacher representative.

Mrs Lappin reflected on the last year and the challenges with no actual people gathering face to face and the new ways of engaging fundraising online with for example online jumble sales, online events, and sales. These were very innovative, and she thanks members for their support and encourage any parent who may wish to get in involved or find out more to be in touch with the school for details then to be passed to her and looked forward to the opportunity for more parental volunteers to support next year's events.

8. RECTOR'S REPORT

Mr Anderson delivered a presentation covering the following themes reflecting on the year gone and the year ahead:

- Reflections of 2020-21
- The year ahead 2022

- Covid-19
- Opportunities and achievements
- Virtual parents' evenings
- Sustaining music lessons and sports activities
- Recovery and improvement
- Wider achievement

The rector shared the school's journey through digital learning, virtual ways of working and some of the challenges of Covid-19 recovery. He talked about the pupil journey and the need for staff adaptability. He reflected on the pace of change and the need to be prepared for alternative ways of working and operating to meet the changing Covid-19 landscape. Mr Anderson also shared the many achievements delivered during the year and presented some of the detail documented in the Annual Report already shared with all members. Finally, he summarised the SQA results which were outstanding for 2021 and a testament to the hard work of all those involved.

Mr Anderson concluded by thanking colleagues, parents, pupils, and the Board for the ongoing support offered to the school during this year last and in his first year of appointment.

10. AOCB

None.

Mr Alexander explained that should there be no imminent questions, if members reflected on the AGM and wished to make comment or ask any questions a form would be issued from the school tomorrow.

The convenor closed the meeting.